SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I don't have the expertise of our senior most Member, Maharaja Karan Singh. Let me confess and disclose my ideological interest; philosophically; I belong to the same group as he does.

Having said that, Sir, DDA went about it very carefully. We went to the Environment Ministry. They imposed as many as 56 conditionalities and each conditionality is being monitored by an institute based in Dehradun. This river bank is a huge area. The place that will be occupied by Commonwealth Games Village accounts for only 3.5 hectares. Still, I will not be able to sit in judgement because this decision or judgement is exercised by the Environment Ministry. My Ministry can only approach the Environment Ministry. The Environment Ministry, guided as it were by experts, granted the approval. Therefore, I cannot enter into a scientific debate on the virtues of clearance granted by the Environment Ministry.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सभापति महोदय, अच्छा है कि अर्बन डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्टर और स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्टर, दोनों यहां बैठे हुए हैं। महोदय, 2008 शुरू होने जा रहा है, अभी दिसम्बर, 2007 आने वाला है। अभी तक दिल्ली में कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स का कोई इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर बना हुआ नज़र नहीं आ रहा है। चीन में, जहां ओलम्पिक होने हैं, छः-सात साल पहले से जो माहौल था, वह देखने लायक था। यहां हमें लग रहा है कि क्या हम दो साल में स्टेडियम बना पाएंगे? अभी तो यह तय हो रहा है कि किस जगह बने? Environment Clearance हुआ या नहीं? यहां की जगह वहां शिफ्ट कर दो। इस तरह से मुझे नहीं लगता कि अभी तक, जब हम जगह तय नहीं कर पाए हैं तो इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर भी खड़ा कर पाएंगे या नहीं कर पाएंगे। मुझे लगता है कि अगर हम ढंग से कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स नहीं करा पाए तो पूरे राष्ट्र को कहीं शर्म से न डूबना पड़े। मैं चाहता हूं कि दोनों मंत्री महोदय इस संबंध में जवाब दें।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I speak for the whole Government. I would like to allay the apprehensions of the Member about our ability to conduct Commonwealth Games. I say here authoritatively that the entire programme is on course. The site has been finally chosen and we have awarded the contract to build the Commonwealth Games site in a PPP mode. All other facilities are being created. Therefore, there needs to be no doubt on this count at all.

*210.[The questioner (Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee) was absent. For answer *vide* page 29 *infra*.]

*211.[The questioner (Shri Manohar Joshi) was absent. For answer *vide* page 33 *infra*.]

*212.[The questioner (Shri Rudra Narayan Pany) was absent. For answer *vide* page 33 *infra*.]

Marine Training Institutes

*213. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for employment of youth in merchant navy/general merchant vessels as Merchant Navy Officers, Marine Engineers and Technicians/Crew Members on-board Indian or foreign merchant ships;

(b) whether there are only a few recognized Marine Training Institutes/Marine Officer Training Institutes in the country and there is no such institute in Karnataka;

(c) whether on account of its vast sea coast and ports, Karnataka, particularly, Dakshin Kannada District has great potential for establishment of Marine Training Institute/Marine Officer Training Institute, both in public and private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In 1997, the Government of India allowed the private sector to conduct maritime training courses. Presently, there are 130 Marine Training Institutes in the country which have been approved by Directorate General of Shipping. However, there is no approved marine training institute in Karnataka as Directorate General of Shipping has not received any proposal from that State.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, there is ample scope for employment of youths in Merchant Navy, General Merchant Vessels as Merchant Navy Officers, Marine Engineers and Technicians, crew members on-board Indian or foreign merchant ships. There are only a few recognised marine training institutes, and marine officers' training institutes in the country, and there is no such institute in Karnataka. Sir, on account of its vast sea coast and ports, Karnataka, particularly Dakshina Kannada District has great potential for establishment of marine training institute, marine officers' training institute, both in public and private sectors. Sir, I have written a letter to the Director General of Shipping asking for establishment of this institute in our district. The hon. Minister has stated that they have not received any proposal from the State Government. As a Member of Parliament, representing the State of Karnataka in the Council of States, I have written to him whether the Ministry is not in a position to take cognisance of this fact on its own and take some steps to have this institute in our district.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Karnataka is a maritime State. At the same time, it is not having an institute of its own. But, Sir, all the hon. Members of this august House know that in a liberalised scenario from 1997 onwards almost all the private investments have come and more than 130 training institutes have been set up in various parts of India, including Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan and also in U.P. where there is no coastal area. But to our surprise, Karnataka is not having a maritime training institute. At the same time, I would like to say that the hon. Member, who has been a former Minister, can use his influence to ask some of the private entrepreneurs to invest money for establishing a training institute there.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, they have admitted that there is scope for employment. The hon. Minister has also admitted in his reply that we should have more institutes like this in order to cope up with the demand. I want to know from the hon. Minister, when they feel that there is scope for such an institute there, then, why they can't take some steps, on its own, to establish such an institute there. So far as the private sector is concerned, we will make our efforts. The hon. Minister said that they are waiting for the proposal from the State Government. Why are you waiting for the proposal from the State Government? Why cannot you yourself do it? There is a Department in the Government of India, why cannot you take steps when you feel that there is a demand and when there is a scope? When you are aware of the fact that there is a vast requirement of seamen, why cannot you do something for this, Mr. Baalu?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as this matter is concerned, I will definitely address this issue in the Ministry, Actually, after liberalisation, the private investment is coming in this particular

sector. India is the 17th largest maritime country of the world. What is the shortage strength? It is only 834 officers in the officers' cadre. Whereas there are 55,000 ratings, 27,000 officers; the shortage we expect is only 834 in this year. I do not think there is any acute shortage. At the same time, it is a problem and it will be addressed as quickly as possible.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the demand of my colleague, Shri Janardhana Poojary for Karnataka. At the same time, Gujarat has a typical problem and I come from Gujarat. We manufacture salt. But the office of the Salt Commissioner is in Rajasthan. Today, I inform the hon. Minister that the longest coastal area in India is in Gujarat. According to my information, and the answer given in the Parliament itself, Gujarat has got 1200 kms. of coast area and the next State may be Kerala and the third may be Maharashtra. But, there is no college of oceanography in Gujarat and there is no institute of marine technology in Gujarat. And, we are demanding this for the last many years. I request the hon. Minister to consider the place Bhavnagar where the then Maharaja had also offered the Chanch Bungalow, which has got 80 rooms, if a marine institute is located in Gujarat. So, I request the hon. Minister to let this House know whether the request of Gujarat for a marine technology institute will be considered or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this can be examined.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, recently we have been seeing in newspapers that there was a lot of trouble going on in the State Government and that is entirely due to the Mining Ministry and the Urban Development Ministry of the State. Has this political trouble for the last few years in the State affected adversely in this kind of projects?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I cannot answer this because I could not understand this question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has expressed his inability to answer that question, let the next supplementary be asked.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, in his reply, the Minister told that there is a shortage of only 800 technicians. Actually the situation is, thousands of experts trained in this particular area, after getting sufficient training and expertise, are migrating to outside India. So, there is an acute shortage the country is going to face in the near future. So, a comprehensive programme is needed. Does this Ministry have any such programme? The situation is worse.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as I have already said, there is no acute shortage. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I am in the Standing Committee and the officers have admitted that there is an acute shortage. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have collected information from INSA only. INSA is the proper organisation and they have informed that there are only 834 officers' shortage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Telephone facilities in rural areas

*202. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revolution in telephones has not reached the rural areas in the country;